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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending August 13, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Excellent Week for Field Work: The blistering heat finally let up last week as temperatures cooled down, but farmers did not get the rain that they had hoped for. Overall, farmers had 6 suitable days for fieldwork last week. The conditions proved to be ideal for haymaking and oat harvesting. However, some soybean and corn leaves are beginning to shrivel from the lack of moisture. Also, the rate of regrowth for alfalfa and pastures is slowing to a sluggish pace. Tobacco farmers are slightly ahead of schedule this year, as tobacco harvesting began last week. Apples, peaches, and potatoes continue to be harvested; with potato farmers continuing to report problems with leafhoppers. Principal farm activities included baling hay and straw; repairing equipment; spreading manure; plowing; and harvesting oats, peaches, apples, sweet corn, potatoes, and tobacco.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 13, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
11	46	42	1

Crops: Almost the entire corn crop has had a chance to silk, as 97 percent of the crop has entered this stage. Fifty-one percent of the corn has entered the dough stage and 20 percent of the crop is now in the dent stage. All these numbers are well ahead of both last year's respective figures and the 5-year averages. The corn and soybeans continue to flourish, even though there is considerable heat stress on each crop. Seventy-four percent of the corn and 80 percent of the soybeans are in either good or excellent condition, with soybean condition barely changing from the previous week. Only a small percentage of the oats remain unripe, as 96 percent of the crop has ripened, which is 9 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Oat harvesting also continues to make great progress. Currently, 74 percent of the oats have been combined, in comparison with last year's figure of 80 percent and the 5-year average of 64 percent. Potato harvesting is moving forward, as 12 percent have been dug, the same as the 5-year average. The weather provided an opportunity for tobacco harvesting to begin. Progress is ahead of normal, as 10 percent of the crop has been harvested. Tobacco farmers are slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 7 percent. Last week was another excellent week for farmers to get into the fields to make hay. Second cutting alfalfa is finished and fourth cutting has begun. Currently, 68 percent of the third cutting has been made, compared to the 5-year average of 52 percent. Fourth cutting progress is the same as the average of 5 percent. An additional 10 percent of second cutting timothy was also baled last week, as farmers now have 79 percent harvested. Again, this figure is well ahead of last year's figure of 65 percent and the average of 53 percent. The quality of hay made has remained steady from the previous week, with last week's conditions reported as 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 27 percent excellent.

Both peach and apple progress have surpassed the average pace. Producers have 61 percent of their peaches harvested, which is 5 percent ahead of both last year's figure and the 5-year average. In addition, 27 percent of the apples

have been picked, which is 12 percent ahead of the historic pace. Both peach and apple conditions remained about steady from the previous week, with no significant changes. Ninety-five percent of the peaches and 85 percent of the apples are rated as good or excellent.

Livestock: Due to the continuous dry spell Pennsylvania has been under, pastures continue to suffer. Some farmers are cutting off pastures in hopes of better regrowth. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 8 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

U.S. as of August 8, 2006: Temperatures averaged above normal across the eastern two-thirds of the Nation, favoring development of summer crops. Warm, mostly dry conditions across the northern Great Plains and neighboring areas of the Corn Belt allowed small grain harvest to progress rapidly. Across the central Corn Belt and Ohio River Valley, summer crop conditions improved despite receiving only light rainfall.

Corn: Acreage at or beyond the silk stage advanced to 97 percent, the same as last year but 5 percentage points ahead of normal. Progress was at or ahead of the normal pace in all states. Forty-four percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, compared with 42 percent last year and 36 percent for the 5-year average. The above-normal temperatures promoted rapid crop development throughout the Corn Belt. Acreage in the dent stage, at 12 percent, was 2 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Denting had not yet begun in the northern Corn Belt, but was at or ahead of normal across all growing areas except the Ohio Valley.

Soybeans: Ninety-three percent of the crop was in the blooming stage or beyond, 2 points behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Blooming was ahead of normal in most states. Meanwhile, acreage setting pods advanced to 72 percent, 1 point behind last year but 11 points ahead of the 5-year average. The most rapid progress was in Ohio, where nearly one-third of the crop entered the stage during the week. Progress was ahead of normal in most states.

Winter Wheat: Growers had reaped 94 percent of their acreage, compared with 93 percent last year and 91 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest was complete or nearly complete in all areas except the Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies.

Small Grains: The barley harvest advanced to 37 percent complete, compared with 20 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average. The most rapid progress was in the northern Great Plains and northwestern Corn Belt.

Oat growers had harvested 77 percent of their acreage, 11 points ahead of last year and 22 points ahead of normal. Harvest progressed rapidly in the Ohio Valley, advancing 43 points in Ohio and 33 points in Pennsylvania. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all states.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 13, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 13, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	86	52	69	-3	0.00	0	13.12	-2.66	57	1,930	229	3,151
Franklin	87	49	69	-1	0.13	2	22.57	4.01	65	1,839	225	3,101
Meadville	83	46	67	-2	0.02	2	18.82	0.78	57	1,796	318	3,031
Mercer	86	49	69	-1	0.06	1	25.41	7.91	61	1,746	148	2,996
Springboro	85	43	65	-6	0.05	2	22.82	7.00	62	1,622	-76	2,820
Warren	86	47	67	-3	0.13	2	24.20	5.93	61	1,695	123	2,922
North Central												
Bradford Region	81	39	62	-3	0.04	1	18.16	-0.31	61	1,374	220	2,540
Emporium	85	45	66	0	0.22	2	21.93	3.13	61	1,726	437	2,990
Kane	83	38	61	-4	0.00	0	18.75	0.16	52	1,257	120	2,415
Laporte	79	45	64	-6	0.08	2	24.80	7.65	66	1,517	-99	2,724
Lock Haven	89	48	69	-2	0.00	0	19.12	2.30	52	1,987	278	3,282
Port Allegany	84	44	63	-3	0.01	1	17.66	0.16	55	1,473	198	2,664
Renovo	88	37	67	-4	0.19	1	18.50	1.68	61	1,826	117	3,114
Ridgway	85	43	65	-2	0.00	0	19.65	0.85	60	1,486	197	2,703
Stevenson Dam	87	51	68	3	0.38	2	16.73	-2.07	55	1,823	534	3,105
Towanda	88	44	66	-5	0.00	0	17.16	2.96	55	1,849	220	3,098
Wellsboro	82	42	62	-4	0.19	1	16.14	1.80	56	1,450	228	2,640
Williamsport	89	48	70	-3	0.00	0	16.27	-0.55	52	2,133	244	3,428
Northeast												
Hawley	85	43	66	-3	1.11	2	25.99	9.94	48	1,645	257	2,857
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	46	69	-3	0.01	1	17.70	1.89	53	1,983	186	3,256
Susquehanna	85	45	66	-2	0.29	1	25.18	7.96	62	1,708	376	2,935
West Central												
Butler	87	48	69	-1	0.06	1	18.64	1.15	59	1,795	122	3,068
New Castle	89	50	71	2	0.00	0	20.85	4.85	57	1,993	314	3,277
Slippery Rock	89	49	70	3	0.00	0	23.11	6.13	65	1,856	341	3,129
Central												
Altoona/Blair	89	45	69	-3	0.00	0	14.42	-1.13	51	1,898	101	3,187
DuBois	82	46	67	-3	0.04	2	19.10	1.59	69	1,659	98	2,899
Lewistown	91	49	71	-2	0.00	0	17.65	0.81	50	2,101	133	3,404
Middletown	92	56	74	-1	0.00	0	19.07	2.77	44	2,477	257	3,797
Prince Gallitzi	86	43	67	-1	0.00	0	18.09	-1.86	53	1,587	152	2,825
Selinsgrove	89	48	70	-3	0.00	0	21.18	4.33	50	2,059	216	3,354
State College	87	51	70	-1	0.00	0	13.68	-1.85	50	2,050	271	3,350
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	87	49	72	-3	0.00	0	22.44	5.07	53	2,243	208	3,547
Lehighton	84	48	68	-6	0.66	1	22.07	4.71	59	2,016	51	3,301
Matamoras	85	44	67	-5	0.03	1	19.43	1.50	57	1,790	10	3,035
Mt_Pocono	82	43	65	-1	0.11	2	25.13	6.36	64	1,620	399	2,839
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	52	72	2	0.00	0	16.69	0.09	55	2,129	325	3,438
Derry	86	49	69	-2	0.23	1	20.18	3.01	55	1,803	108	3,080
Myersdale	85	43	66	-5	0.81	3	19.08	0.17	66	1,379	-274	2,586
Mount Pleasant	88	45	69	1	0.31	2	17.30	-1.92	57	1,788	283	3,060
Pittsburgh Intl	88	51	72	2	0.00	0	14.82	-0.79	51	2,065	178	3,362
Connellsville	90	52	73	3	0.18	4	17.25	-1.20	70	2,060	140	3,356
Waynesburg	89	48	71	1	0.88	1	15.03	-2.05	51	1,872	127	3,162
South Central												
Biglerville	93	51	73	-2	0.13	1	19.82	4.81	52	2,254	82	3,571
Everett	84	43	65	-6	0.39	3	14.95	-0.20	58	1,526	-247	2,813
Hanover	94	47	71	-4	0.07	3	15.67	0.66	51	2,227	55	3,538
Harrisburg_AP	91	52	74	-2	0.00	0	18.44	2.14	49	2,420	193	3,740
South Mountain	88	47	68	-4	0.06	1	22.97	7.42	54	1,771	-19	3,048
York	93	45	71	-4	0.00	0	12.83	-3.79	46	2,207	44	3,512
Southeast												
Green Lane	87	51	72	0	0.00	0	24.16	7.15	52	2,285	346	3,593
Hamburg	87	52	72	2	0.02	1	22.50	2.50	59	2,324	550	3,630
West_Chester	90	48	72	-3	0.00	0	20.78	2.06	45	2,171	20	3,473
Lancaster	90	52	73	-2	0.00	0	23.82	6.33	53	2,317	274	3,631
Neshaminy Falls	88	50	71	-3	0.20	1	22.24	2.35	48	2,176	150	3,486
New Holland	89	53	72	-2	0.00	0	17.54	0.05	51	2,340	297	3,650
Philadelphia	90	61	77	1	0.03	1	18.10	1.07	42	2,710	374	4,047
Philadelphia NE	90	58	76	-1	0.31	1	20.60	3.57	48	2,675	339	4,007
Reading	88	51	73	-2	0.01	1	19.16	0.66	49	2,389	382	3,700
Valley Forge Na	90	52	73	-3	0.24	2	23.20	5.48	52	2,333	55	3,645
Willow Grove	88	54	73	0	0.00	0	17.40	-2.49	43	2,434	408	3,756

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County is still extremely dry. Very little rainfall was received in only a small area in Adams County early Monday morning. Temperatures have been cooler in the 80's this week with lower humidity most days. Some evening's temps dipped to high 50's to low 60's.

Corn is in dire need of some rainfall. The bottom foot or so of the corn stalks is now brown on majority of fields. Most corn is suffering from the dry weather with corn leaves rolling. Corn silage harvest is to start early this year within the next week for corn planted in April. Soybeans continue to grow; but need rainfall to make pods and beans within pods. Hay also continues to be made.

Sweet corn and vegetables continue to be harvested, but the dry weather may affect the yields. Some pumpkins are suffering from this dry weather and plants are turning brown.

Apples continue to do well and are coloring up. They will be harvested earlier this year also due to weather conditions. Peaches continue to be harvested and are two weeks earlier than other years for ripening and will be harvested a few more weeks.

Some ground has been tilled for the fall planting season.

Overall the crops in Adams County are not fairing too bad for as dry as we are. Some moisture would surely help all of the crops but none is in the forecast for the next few days.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It is very dry in the county.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It remains very dry. We need some showers to get things green again. 3rd cutting hay is very short.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - It's getting very dry and crops are seeing stress damage. Most corn looks far enough along to make a crop. Soybeans have some pest problems.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Excellent work week. Dry weather and low humidity made drying hay easy. Combines were busy harvesting oats and the balers followed shortly after to bale straw. The dry weather has affected regrowth in pastures causing some producers to supplement forages.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Corn silage harvest is coming up fast. Drought stress is beginning to make silage dry unevenly in many fields.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Several weeks ago, I reported that we had too much rain; now, we desperately need some rain. The corn and soybeans on the lighter soils are suffering heavily. The alfalfa has nearly stopped growing and many farmers are making some excellent quality third cutting hay. There is some leafhopper damage on the new seedlings as well as on the fields that are stressed from the heat and drought. The pastures have nearly dried up. The main activities for the week were haymaking, mowing pastures, soil testing, and making machinery repairs.

UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler - Excellent week to make hay; however, lack of rainfall is causing pasture growth to stop. Crops growing on shallow, low moisture holding capacity soils are showing moisture stress.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Producers continue to make hay. The field conditions continue to be dry.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Dry conditions continue with most of the county missing this week's isolated showers generated by the passage of several cold fronts. A few areas have not had any moisture this month and crop yields are being adversely affected. The rain-free days have given us the best harvesting conditions of the summer. Crops that got some rain this week generally look great.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 13, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	11	10	7
Corn, silk	97	96	85
Corn, dough	51	41	44
Corn, dent	20	7	11
Oats, ripe	96	97	87
Oats, harvested	74	80	64
Tobacco, harvested	10	9	7
Potatoes, harvested	12	9	12
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	99	100	90
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	68	71	52
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	5	2	5
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	79	65	53
Peaches, harvested	61	56	56
Apples, harvested	27	21	15

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 13, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	5	19	44	30
Soybeans	0	4	16	59	21
Quality of hay made	1	4	21	47	27
Pasture	8	20	43	25	4
Peaches	0	0	5	60	35
Apples	0	0	5	65	30

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